

Appl. No. 10/820,043
Amdt. Dated 12 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of 10 01, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2 (cancelled)

3. (new) A hot water on demand system for a household comprising:

a hot water heater having an inlet and an outlet port;

a hot water line coupled to the outlet port of the hot water heater and at least one plumbing fixture for circulating hot water from the hot water heater to each plumbing fixture;

a cold water line coupled to each plumbing fixture for circulating cold water to each plumbing fixture;

a hot water return line coupled to the hot water line adjacent each plumbing fixture and to an inlet of the hot water heater;

a first check valve coupled to the hot water return line and the cold water line for regulating flow from the cold water line to the inlet port and for preventing hot water entering the cold water line;

a second check valve coupled to the hot water return line between the inlet port and each plumbing fixture for preventing pressure reduction in the hot water return line below a predetermined level and thereby preventing cold water from entering the hot water return line;

a pump means coupled to the hot water return line for circulating hot water from each fixture to the inlet port of the hot water heater.

4. (new) The hot water system according to claim 1, wherein the hot water line and the hot water return line are insulated to prevent heat loss.

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5. (new) The hot water system according to claim 1, further comprising at least one shut off valve couple to each of the hot water line, the hot water return line and the cold water line for restricting the flow of hot and cold water to and from the hot water heater, thereby rendering the hot water heater easily removable.
6. (new) The hot water system according to claim 1, wherein the hot water heater has a thermometer for measuring the temperature of the water in the hot water line.
7. (new) The hot water system according to claim 1, wherein the first and the second check valves each have a diameter of between 13mm and 20mm.